



Faith Connections

United in Faith Helping
People In Need

Volume 4, Issue 12

December 2021

Our Mission: Bringing together an ecumenical coalition of Quad City area churches to help feed the hungry, offer emergency assistance to those in crisis, and provide a transitional housing program for women and children who are victims of domestic violence or human trafficking.

More Than a Babe in a Manger



“For there is born to you this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Somehow in a season we are meant to savor, we spend our energy trying to accomplish every activity in our overcommitted schedules. All the busyness and stress of parties, gifts, and traditions often leave us wondering, “Why do we do all of this?” Reflecting on how we use our time and why is certainly a valuable exercise, but there is a more pointed question for this Christmas season that will bring increasing joy and peace to our hearts the more we dwell on its wondrous answer: Who is this Jesus? The answer to this question is the best gift we will ever receive, and it has the power to change not just Christmas but every day of the year.

The arrival on God in the flesh was a surprisingly quiet affair. You would think that the incarnation of the divine would be an explosive, earth shattering event. However, except for Joseph and Mary and a few others, no one knew that the time had come when God would send His Son into the world to save it. Bethlehem was crowded, not because people were expecting the Messiah but because Caesar Augustus had decreed everyone must travel to their ancestral home to be registered for the census. The only visitors the King of kings received as He was cradled in a manger that first night were scraggly shepherds who had heard the news of his birth from angels.

Despite appearances, Jesus’ coming was hardly unscheduled – His was an arrival promised and planned since the beginning (Genesis 3:15). Throughout the Old Testament, God continuously reminded His people that His Anointed One would come and save them from the curse of sin and death. His Son would reign and rule over all the nations of the earth forever. In particular, the Psalms contain many passages that prophesy about the Messiah – passages that the New Testament reveals are fulfilled in Jesus.

This Christmas, I encourage all of us to take time to reflect on the babe born in Bethlehem who now reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords.

On behalf of the Churches United Staff, have a blessed and merry Christmas.

Blessings,
Mel=

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Thank You!

Thank you, First Baptist Church – East Moline, Cheryl Yeager, and Sharon Farral. They generously donated beautiful quilts that will bring warmth and joy to our clients.

Holiday Train 2021

Due to the pandemic, the CP Holiday Train will be going virtual again this year. As a beneficiary of the Holiday Train program, we encourage you to enjoy the concert but also, please give to Churches United pantries and/or donate to us directly.

The CP “Holiday Train at Home” virtual concert will be held on Saturday, December 18th at 7pm and will last for approximately 1 hour and 15min. Headlining the concert will be Steven Page and The Strumbellas, with featured performances by Tanika Charles, Keb Mo, The Trews, Aysanabee, Sierra Noble and the Odds.

The show will be available to live-stream via our Facebook page (facebook.com/canadian.pacific), YouTube and cpr.ca/holidaytrain. The concert will remain available there for future viewing until the end of the year.



**SATURDAY
DEC. 18**

7P.M.

**LIVESTREAM
CONCERT ON
FACEBOOK,
YOUTUBE
AND cpr.ca**

Join CP online to celebrate the holidays by listening to great music and donating to help food banks in Canada and the U.S.



@CanadianPacific

MUSICAL GUESTS:

The Strumbellas
Steven Page
Keb Mo
The Trews

Tanika Charles
Sierra Noble
Aysanabee
Odds

cpr.ca/holidaytrain

Food Pantry Coordinator Needed

One of the pantries Churches United supports needs a food pantry coordinator. This is a part-time position.

Responsibilities: Managing a food pantry, including: organizing and recruiting volunteers, ordering food, and coordinating the distribution of food to those in need.

Requirements:

- ServSafe certified.
- Fully vaccinated against COVID.
- Follow CDC protocols.
- Must be at least 18 years old.

Training will be provided.

Meal Site Coordinator Needed

Part-time

Responsibilities: Oversee one of our meal sites that provides meals to those in need on Monday and Wednesday evenings with the potential for additional hours.

Requirements:

- ServSafe certified.
- Fully vaccinated against COVID.
- Follow CDC protocols.
- Must be at least 18 years old.

Training will be provided.

For more information or to submit a resume, contact Betsy Vanausdeln at 563-332-5002 or by email at bvanausdeln@cuqca.org.

Holiday Candle Fundraiser



Available Scents:
Birch with Pine
Plumeria with Vanilla
White Lily with Sage
Peppermint with Mocha

Order your candles now.

The deadline to order Churches United Holiday Candles is **Tuesday, December 7th.**

Churches United has partnered with **MJ's Creative Candles** to create Churches United Holiday Candles.

Candles are \$15.50 each and 75% of sales will go to our ministries. Pre-order your candles now by contacting our office at 563-332-5002, by sending email to: lbennett@cuqca.org, or stop by our office. We have samples. Candles will be ready soon.

Winnie's Transitional Housing Committee Members Needed

We're looking for people who are passionate about helping women and their children escape domestic abuse and human trafficking. This committee will provide insight and oversight for Winnie's Transitional Housing. If you are interested, please contact our Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Melvin L. Grimes at 563-332-5002 or by email at mgrimes@cuqca.org.



Churches United of the Quad City Area

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For newsletter submissions, contact Susan Schwartz, our social media director at sschwartz@cuqca.org



Give Today to Churches United

Online at <http://www.cuqca.org/donate.php>

Call us at (563) 332-5002

Mail or drop off your gift:
Churches United of the Quad City Area
2535 Tech Drive, Suite 205
Bettendorf, IA 52722

Thank You!

Donate, keep up-to-date, and check out daily reflections by following us on Facebook at:



<https://www.facebook.com/ChurchesUnitedoftheQuadCityArea/>



Support CUQCA by designating us as your charity and by purchasing items from our Wish List.

https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/l/I9QO2R6L5908/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_4?_encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist

Delegate Assembly 2022



Dr. N. Jonas Ohrberg, founder of the Human Promise, is returning to the Quad Cities to speak at our Delegate Assembly on Thursday, March 24th, 2022. Delegate Assembly will be held at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Moline.

According to the Human Promise website, “Dr. N. Jonas Ohrberg is simply someone who cares about others, believes in positive and constructive progress in society, and has hope for a better future. Based on personal experiences and observations Jonas decided to put some

ideas and thoughts on paper and he developed the concept of The Human Promise. The Human Promise is not an extraordinary concept, but rather very simple.”

“The Human Promise is rooted in the words, writings and life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The attempt is to increase awareness of fostering a society rooted in the human spirit and human progress through acceptance, cooperation, fairness, and reconciliation.”

Delegate Assembly is our annual meeting. This is wonderful gathering of representatives from our member churches. It provides an opportunity to reflect on the past year, examine where we are as an organization and where we’re going, and to recognize those who have made significant contributions to our organization. More information will be coming soon.

https://www.thehumanpromise.org/about_us